



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

December 2007

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2007—2008

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Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

SOUP'S ON!

Annual Social and Program Planning



Tuesday, December 11, 2007

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Unitarian Fellowship Hall

2945 NW Circle Blvd.

Join with your fellow League members to celebrate the past and help create the future!

- Delicious soups, breads and desserts will be provided by the LWV Corvallis Board.
- Please bring your own table service (bowl, plate, cup, and utensils). We want to make this event as waste-free as possible!

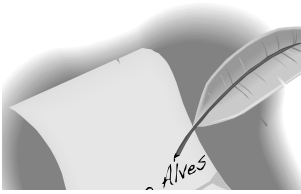
Following supper, we will review national LWV positions and discuss national issues that demand our attention, invite further study, or require action. Our local program planning will include a discussion of questions to consider when proposing a local study (see p. 6) and sharing of ideas for possible new local studies.

To prepare for the evening, please read the information in this bulletin and reflect about our community and issues that could benefit from League study or action.

We look forward to seeing you.



President's Corner — Barbara Ross



'Tis the season to be thankful, and thankful I am! I am so glad that the Benton County Levy passed. With only 148 votes to spare, we are thankful for every bit of effort that League members put into pushing it over the top. We are also very thankful that Measure 49, which was endorsed by the state LWV, also passed by a very good margin.

We are thankful that we live in a country where fair and free elections are the rule, not the exception. We are also very grateful for watchful League members all over the country who work to keep our election processes orderly and honest. Our oversight draws attention to sloppy practices and flawed mechanisms when they do occur.

I am thankful that here in Corvallis we have such wonderful intelligent League members who are not afraid to face difficult, confusing, and controversial issues. This year there are plenty of those around.

At our November forum we turned our attention to the issue of immigration. Our panel consisted of employers in the hotel, nursery and farming industries. While the views they expressed were very interesting their perspective represents only one slice of a complex tangle of immigration problems. In January we will turn our attention to other aspects of the immigration picture.

In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season with those you love. I am off to Rochester, New York to visit my sister.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 13-16, 2008

LWVUS National Convention in Portland

The LWVUS National Convention is coming to the Portland Hilton next June! Our League will have delegates. **Volunteers are also needed.** Please contact Paula Krane if you are interested in being a volunteer - many different volunteer opportunities each day. More details later, however, reserve the dates on your calendar now. Be part of the excitement!



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 17-18, 2008

The LWVOR State Council is coming to Corvallis (Salbasgeon Inn). We are the host League. **Volunteers will be needed.** Contact Barbara Ross if interested in helping.

LWV of Corvallis

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Paula Krane or Louise Marquering. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older.



Recycling Tips — Cork!

Cork can be recycled in a couple of ways. Cork is organic material and can be recycled with yard debris.

Wineopolis at Water Street Market on First and Monroe will take used corks.

Check out re-corkamerica.com to find out what wineries in the Willamette

Valley are doing with recycled cork.

Plastic "Big Gulp" type containers from fast food places can be recycled, but the straws and lids cannot.

Recycling questions? Ask Louise Marquering at 753-0012 or CorvallisMatters@aol.com to help find the answer.



LWV Book Club

Another Year of Good Books and Film

On December 10, the LWV Book Club will meet at Ruth Gallagher's, (754-3112, ruthg@cmug.com) 2:30 PM to view the classic film, *The Russians are Coming, The Russians are Coming*. To prepare, think back to your first encounter with this film; check out reviews on the web. Questions - contact Corrine Gobeli, 745-7736, cgobeli@aol.com. As always, discussions are open to all League members.



To keep up with your reading: January 14, *Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II*, by Robert Kurson; February 11, *Death Pans Out* by Ashna

Graves (Wendy Madar); Author talk: February 21, 7 PM. Library Main meeting room - Sponsored by Friends of the Library March 10, *An Empire Wilderness: Travels into America's Future* by Robert D. Kaplan; April 14, *Tender is the Night*, F. Scott Fitzgerald; May 12, *The Worst Hard Time*, Timothy Egan. (Random Review: May 14, 12 noon, Library).

So many books - so little time. Other books discussed, but not selected: *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, *The Memory Keepers Daughter* by Kim Edwards, *The Baroque Cycle* (Vols. 1-3) by Neal Stephenson, *The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World* by Carlos Fuentes, *Zorro* by Isabel Allende, *All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg, *Don't Let's go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood* by Alexandra Fuller, *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert, *The Way We Were* by Sinclair Lewis, *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton* by Carl Bernstein, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann.

Members Generosity Appreciated

A special THANK YOU to the following members who have supported League with their donations

LWVOR AND LWVUS EDUCATION FUNDS

Donna Allen
Paula Krane
Jean Leach
Kate Mathews
Popi Natsoulas
Nancy Schary
Clara Shoemaker
Ann Smart
Mary Anne Stayton
Jo Anne Trow
Lois Zaerr

These tax deductible donations have been used to offset a portion of our per member payment to the state and national Leagues.

LWV CORVALLIS

Louise Ferrell
Sara Ingle
Paula Krane
Melvina Walter

TO AUGMENT BUDGET FOR ADVOCACY

Voters Pamphlet Argument for County Levy
Pat Bishop
Annette Mills
Shelly Murphy
Barbara Ross
Jo Anne Trow
Doris Waring

GT Ads—Yes on M49
Liz Frenkel
Elinor Griffiths
Marilyn Koenitzer
Peggy Lynch

PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Election of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of

power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations. Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade. Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries. Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control. Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources. Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation.

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agricultural Policy.

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment, Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit poli-

cies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care. Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk.

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention. Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control. Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy. Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Local Program Planning – Be Prepared!

League Program is the League’s “reason for being” – the basis for both education and action. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change.

The **Program Planning Process** begins when we meet to talk about and debate where we want to direct our energy and efforts for the future. Every year, we make suggestions for local program. National and state program planning is done on alternate years. This year, we will discuss national program.

By **Preparing for Program Planning**, you can help create a lively, stimulating meeting!

1. Review League positions (on-line or in your Handbook), and think about our community, the “burning” issues and questions, the needs of citizens, and any gaps in service.
2. Consider what might be desirable in addressing the gaps or issues.
 - What issues are most critical to our community?
 - What issues will stir the imagination of our members?
 - What would give League greater visibility and



credibility?

- What studies or projects would help the League link with diverse individuals and organizations?
3. Consider what is feasible, given League resources and expertise.
 - How could LWV help achieve appropriate public policy or action on these issues?
 - What League positions currently exist?
 - Is the issue timely?
 - Who in League will chair the study committee?
 - Who in League will join the committee?
 - Could League form partnerships with other public or non-profit/private organizations?
 4. How are voters service and citizen education integrated into program?

Come to the program planning meeting prepared to offer your ideas. Now is the time to be creative, to dream about the studies or educational/advocacy projects that will make League a more vital organizations, make a difference in the community, and engage your heart and mind.

Do You Know Our Local Positions?

League of Women voters positions on issues of concern are reached after careful study and discussion. These positions are the framework against which members measure all actions taken in the name of LWV at all levels. The LWV of Corvallis has developed positions in many areas, to be used for action at the local level. Please take a

look at our website (www.lwv.corvallis.or.us) to review positions in the following areas:

Community Planning

- Comprehensive Planning
- Urbanization
- Open Space
- Transportation

Corrections

- Background and Philosophy
- Adult Corrections
- Juvenile Corrections

- Health Services in Benton County
- Public Health Services
- Health Care of the Elderly

Know Your Schools

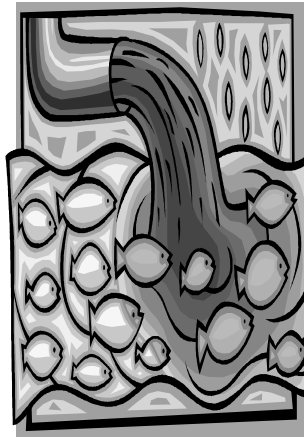
- Financing the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
- Benton County Charter
- Child Care in Benton County
- At Risk Youth
- Primary Prevention of Violence in Linn & Benton Counties
- Housing

Water Resources – Update

The Water Resources study committee will meet once in December, then take a short respite over the holidays. Upcoming meetings are as follows: December 10th, 10 a.m., Liz Frenkel's; January 10th, 12 noon, place to be determined; Jan. 24th, 10 a.m., TBD.

League members are invited to attend. Call Corrine Gobeli, 745-7736 (cgobeli@aol.com) for more information.

Recent discussions have included system development charges in Corvallis, the Capitol Improvement program and process, CCR's in planned developments that might impact water use, OSU, McDonald Forest, and various forms of drug take-back programs. As you can see, the issue of water quantity and quality is far – ranging.



Treatment plants are typically not equipped to handle drugs flushed down the toilet. Drugs simply put into the garbage might leach into water supplies.

Solution: Follow DEQ guidelines by...

- Keeping the drugs in the original containers. Mark out private information on labels.
- Render the drug unusable: mix it with something unpalatable or in some other way to make it so it can't be ingested.
- Taping container lid closed and putting any liquids in a sealable plastic bag.

- Placing the container in durable packaging that masks its contents, such as a brown paper bag or box.

Putting the unwanted drugs in their boxes as close to garbage pickup as possible.

Source: City of Corvallis, Public Works Department (541-766-6916)

Water Resources: What You Can Do

This month's "tip" about what each of us can do to help conserve and protect our water resources. Many of you may have read the recent tips about disposing of unwanted drugs in kitty litter. Here are additional guidelines – until a long term, more environmentally sound solution is in place.

Problem: Unwanted and unused drugs.

Speedy and Safe Recovery

To our own Leah Bolger, who has recently donated one of her kidneys. Having for some time considered being an anonymous donor, Leah met Craig, a colleague of her husband Bart, and discovered that Craig's kidney disease was so bad that doctors had removed both kidneys. After a year on dialysis and with the help of many tests, Craig was glad to learn that



Leah's kidney was a good match. Surgery was performed last month and both surgeries went very well and both are recovering.

Leah will recover at home for an estimated 6 weeks and then be back leading the way at the peace rallies and marches.

Sad News

We are saddened by the loss of Lee Callahan, who at age 83 died peacefully in her garden with her clippers by her side on November 8th. She had been a member of the Corvallis LWV for more than 50 years. Another long time leaguer, Louise Ferrell said of Lee: "She knew how to think out of the box. More than anyone I know, she could enlarge a discussion of an issue by bringing in a new perspective that we had not thought of. She had a great smile, a great laugh."

She was a loyal and hard working league participant, there whenever she was needed. She was a person of deep compassion, always on the side of the little guy. She paid attention to every item in every election, making sure she had thoughtfully decided how to vote. We will miss her. She was one of a kind.



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Dates to Remember

- December 7 Tentative Grapefruit delivery
- December 10 Book Group
- December 10 Water Committee
- December 11 Program Planning
- January 8 Immigration Discussion
- January 10 Water Committee
- January 14 Consensus Unit on Immigration
- January 14 Book Group
- January 16 Consensus Unit on Immigration

Join LWV Corvallis

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, Zip+ 4 digits _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

- _____ \$52 individual membership
- _____ \$78 household membership
- _____ \$26 student membership
- _____ Contribution*
- _____ I'm a new member! Please call.
- _____ I'm renewing my membership.
- _____ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
 Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to all citizens 18 years and over.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVOR or LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.